



The Thames Bridge C of E Federation

Use of Force or Restraint to Control Policy

– January 2017

The governing body of Clifton Hampden C of E Primary School and Culham Parochial C of E Primary School has agreed to adopt this policy as set out below.

Monitoring and evaluation

This policy will be monitored by the Governors and reviewed by the staff as part of the school's monitoring cycle.

Date of writing – January 2017

Date of review – January 2019

Date policy approved by Governors

Signed:

Headteacher:

Chair of Governors:

Introduction

When considering the use of physical restraint, two principles need to be taken into account:

- ✓ The duty of a member of staff to care for and protect the pupil.
- ✓ The rights and liberties of the pupil.

Definitions

Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of a classroom.

Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a pupil under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two pupils are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.

Avoiding the Use of Physical Restraint

The Thames Bridge C of E Federation behaviour policy is designed to prevent physical incidents from occurring. Our aim of creating a calm, well-ordered and secure atmosphere is the best insurance against incidents of aggressive confrontations.

If there are frequent incidents of restraint, or if a pupil is restrained on a regular basis, then certain aspects of staffing, organisation and environment in The Thames Bridge C of E Federation would need to be challenged and examined.

The Conditions of Permissible Forms of Restraint

Any person who touches another person without his or her consent runs the risk of being accused of committing an unlawful act.

Staff working with children have a duty to safeguard their welfare. Sometimes, this obligation overrides a child's right not to be touched. The Education Act of 1996 allows teachers and others named by the Headteacher to physically intervene.

Schools **can** use reasonable force to:

- Remove disruptive children from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so.
- Prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit.
- Prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others.
- Prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground.
- Restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

Schools **cannot**:

- Use force as a punishment - it is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.

Using physical restraint is a last resort. Staff must ensure, and be able to demonstrate, that all other means have been exhausted.

Physical restraint should never be used as a substitute for behaviour management. If The Thames Bridge C of E Federation is aware that a pupil has Special Educational Needs that may result in behaviour in which physical intervention may be necessary, then it should plan how to respond. Plans would include staff training, communication with parents and agreed strategies amongst all staff on de-escalating a conflict.

Risk Assessment

Assess whether physical intervention will do more harm than good.

Before physical restraint, consideration should be given to:

- ✓ The presence of a second member of staff to assist, supervise or witness
- ✓ The presence of other pupils and the effect they may have
- ✓ The scope to secure further assistance
- ✓ Spectacles, hearing aids, clothing worn by pupil
- ✓ Restrainer's capacity to remain calm
- ✓ Location of the restraint and any risks posed by surroundings
- ✓ Pupil's previous experience of restraint and their likely reaction
- ✓ Presence of any weapons

Staff should always adopt a calm approach. Restraint should never be used to punish, or out of anger or frustration.

Methods of Handling

Any restraint should use minimum force for the minimum amount of time.

Where possible, staff should try to ensure that a staff member of the same gender is present during the incident.

Physical handling should never be used to humiliate or inflict pain.

Staff must avoid touching sensitive areas.

During restraint, staff must:

- ✓ Not employ another pupil to assist
- ✓ Avoid moving the restrained person
- ✓ Avoid generating a fear of injury
- ✓ Continually offer verbal reassurance in a calm manner
- ✓ Give clear messages under what conditions the restraint will cease
- ✓ Monitor physical well-being

Staff have the right to defend themselves by physical means against attack.

Follow-up Action

Physical restraint is upsetting for everyone. Once calm, it is important to explain why restraint was used and to defuse this and any potential further situation. Any incident must be logged by the member of staff on the appropriate form (attached).

Parents should be informed as soon as possible.

The Headteacher and Governors have a duty to monitor logged incidents carefully and take action if restraint incidents give rise to concern.

If, after receiving the report of an incident, the Headteacher considers the school guidelines have been seriously breached and that further investigation is warranted, the incident should NOT be pursued, but action in accordance with Child Protection Procedures must be taken.

- ✓ The Headteacher contacts OCC Safeguarding Team and HR.
- ✓ Staff member advised to consult his/her Professional Association

Summary

Physical intervention by staff might involve:

- ✓ Physically interposing between pupils
- ✓ Blocking a pupil's path
- ✓ Holding
- ✓ Pulling or pushing a pupil away from danger
- ✓ Leading a pupil by the hand or arm
- ✓ Shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of the back
- ✓ (in extreme circumstances) Using more restrictive holds

Staff **must not** act in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause injury.

For further information, refer to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>

Incident record form

Details of pupil on whom force was used – name, class, and any SEN, disability or other vulnerability

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Date, time and location of incident

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Names of staff involved (directly or as witnesses)

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Details of other pupils involved (directly or as witnesses), including whether any of the pupils involved were vulnerable for SEN, disability, medical or social reasons

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Description of incident by the staff involved, including any attempts to de-escalate and warnings given that force might be used

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Reason for using force and description of force used

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Any injury suffered by staff or pupils and any first aid and/or medical attention required

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Reasons for making a record of this incident

--

Follow up, including post-incident support and any disciplinary action against pupils

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Any information about incident shared with staff not involved in it and external agencies

--

When and how those with parental responsibility were informed about the incident and any views they have expressed

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Has any complaint been lodged (details should not be recorded here)?

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Report compiled by:**Name and role:****Date****Report countersigned by:****Name and role:****Date:**

Please Note: The names of pupils should be removed before the completed form is sent to parents and the names of members of staff should only be included with their consent.